Disney's "Hollywood Stargirl" is a sequel to the 2020 Disney+ hit about free spirit Stargirl Caraway (Grace VanderWaal)—a silver-voiced teenager whose simple acts of kindness work magic in the lives of others—which follows Stargirl's journey out of Mica, Ariz., and into a bigger world of music, dreams and possibilities. When her mother, Ana (Judy Greer), is hired as the costume designer on a movie, they relocate to L.A., where Stargirl quickly becomes involved with an eclectic assortment of characters. They include aspiring filmmaker brothers Evan (Elijah Richardson) and Terrell (Tyrel Jackson Williams); Mr. Mitchell (Judd Hirsch), one of Stargirl's neighbors; and Roxanne Martel (Uma Thurman), a musician Stargirl admires and encounters on her journey. Returning as Stargirl, VanderWaal performs an original song she composed, in the film. Julia Hart returns to direct. Hart & Jordan Horowitz wrote the original script, based on the original character from Jerry Spinelli's best-selling book "Stargirl." Ellen Goldsmith-Vein, p.g.a., Lee Stollman, p.g.a., and Jordan Horowitz, p.g.a., are the producers, with Kristin Hahn, Nathan Kelly and Jerry Spinelli serving as executive producers.

Reuniting with Hart and Horowitz are crew members director of photography Bryce Fortner ("Portlandia"), production designer Gae Buckley ("The Book of Eli"), costume designer Natalie O'Brien ("The Bad Batch"), editors Tracey Wadmore Smith, ACE ("Fool's Gold"), and Shayar Bhansali ("Standing Up, Falling Down") and music producer Nick Baxter ("One Night in Miami"), who, along with Michael Penn ("Boogie Nights," "Masters of Sex," "Girls"), serves as the film's executive music producer.

A STORY FOR THE DREAMER IN ALL OF US

Shortly after the filmmakers delivered the first "Stargirl" to Disney to debut on its new Disney+ streaming service, studio executives approached them about doing a sequel. "Stargirl" director and screenplay writer Julia Hart and her husband, co-writer Jordan Horowitz ("La La Land"), who produced the film with Ellen Goldsmith-Vein, p.g.a., and Lee Stollman, p.g.a., were very excited, having thoroughly enjoyed making the first film.

Hart says, "Making 'Stargirl' was the best experience of my career as a filmmaker."

Horowitz recalls, "'Stargirl' was one of the earliest films Disney had done for the service, and the response internally was very buoyant. They were really excited about it."

Goldsmith-Vein says, "They did such a great job with the movie. They're extraordinarily gifted."

But five days after the movie premiered, the COVID pandemic seemingly shut down the whole world. The studio would have to wait until it was safe for productions to resume to start filming the sequel, but in the meantime Hart and Horowitz started working on the script.

It was a given that Grace VanderWaal, who came to the public's attention with her sensational appearance on "America's Got Talent" before making her acting debut in the title role of "Stargirl," would reprise her role in the sequel.

Producer Lee Stollman says, "I remember that when we cast Grace in the first film, we were like, 'She's amazing, let's do two.'"

But VanderWaal wasn't so sure. "I was very, very hesitant," she admits. "I was scared," worried that she might not be up to the challenges of what Hart and Horowitz had in mind for the follow-up film, which she realizes now was unfounded.

"It ended up being one of the best decisions ever," VanderWaal says. "I'm very happy to have done it. And I'm so happy I got to work with Julia again. I love her so much."

Hart and Horowitz wanted to take Stargirl, her mom and her pet rat, Cinnamon, on an entirely new adventure. At first they thought about having them go to Paris, but as they started working on the script while isolated in their Los Angeles home, the married filmmaking team decided to have them move from Mica, Ariz., to L.A., where Stargirl's mom, Ana, gets an offer to work on a movie as a costume designer.

Hart says, "Now I can't imagine any other version of the film than the one that we landed on. The thing that we missed the most during quarantine was our movie family, and so we wanted to tell a story about all the wonderful people that we get to work with and create with and what it means to find those people for the first time."

Says Goldsmith-Vein, "It's really a homage to Hollywood."

"Hollywood Stargirl" continues the coming-of-age story of Stargirl Caraway, but where the first film focused on themes of self-acceptance and personal expression, this sequel underscores the importance of following your dreams and finding a place where you can shine among those who will support, nurture and challenge you to be the best you can be.

"The baseline is that it's okay to have dreams and to live in a city that's built on dreams," says Stollman.

While the first film, like Jerry Spinelli's original novel, was told from the perspective of Stargirl's high school friend Leo, Hart and Horowitz decided that the sequel would be from Stargirl's point of view. Also, since Grace VanderWaal was now 17, they wanted to honor the ways in which she had grown, changed and matured as a person and as an artist, and reflect that growth in her character.

VanderWaal says, "This time Stargirl's kind of like angsty and has a lot more dimension, which I appreciate. Unlike in the first film, where she's happy pretty much all the time, you see more of her mental battles in this movie. She's having some problems with her mom. I feel like almost some resentment because her mom's kind of lugging her everywhere like luggage."

At first, Stargirl isn't happy about being uprooted from her life in Arizona, but it doesn't take long for her to discover that moving to L.A. was just what she needed.

Says VanderWaal, "I think that this movie could have been called 'Dreaming,' because I feel like the overall theme is about dreaming. It's so crazy how rare it is to meet people who genuinely dream these days. No one just freely allows himself to dream anymore. And believe their dreams could possibly happen."

She continues, "There's this line in the film: 'Just because it didn't turn out or look the way you thought it would, doesn't mean that you're not living your dream.' I think it's the most beautiful thing I've ever heard. I think it's something that a lot of people need to hear."

ALL-NEW CAST

To support their "Hollywood Stargirl," the filmmakers assembled a fantastic all-new cast of seasoned veterans and talented newcomers.

Hart explains, "One of the craziest things about writing the script in quarantine was that, with only seeing four people for months on end, these characters just became that much more precious, since I wasn't seeing anybody else. I think I became even more attached to them than I normally do. So, I was really nervous about casting because I loved them so much as characters, and they felt so real to me."

"This is why working with Julia is so amazing.," says Goldsmith-Vein. "She's really great at casting."

The filmmakers wanted to focus more this time on Stargirl's relationship with her mother, Ana, who sees the opportunity to move to L.A. to work as a costume designer on a movie as a second chance to fulfill a dream from earlier in her life, before Stargirl was born. To play Ana, they cast actor-comedian Judy Greer, best known for her roles in such films as "Ant-Man," "Jurassic World"

and “The Descendants,” and for her television work on such series as “Archer,” “Kidding,” “Arrested Development” and “Two and a Half Men.”

“Having Judy Greer, an incredibly gifted actress, play Stargirl’s mother really grounds that relationship,” says Stollman. “It’s very special to watch her and Grace play off each other on screen,” he adds.

About Greer, Hart says, “I still can’t believe she’s in the movie. I’ve been a fan of hers forever.”

Greer admits, “When I was offered the role, I had never seen the first movie, but I watched it before I said I would be in it. I was like, ‘It’s so good.’”

She explains, “I really loved the character of Stargirl. I loved how unselfish she was and how she tried so hard to make other people happy without the acknowledgement. I think people love music and people love, love stories, and coming-of-age stories and fish-out-of-water stories, which this is. But the story I was drawn to was about this young girl always trying to leave things better than she found them.”

Back in Mica, Stargirl experienced romance for the first time with her friend Leo. In “Hollywood Stargirl,” the filmmakers have given her the opportunity for a more mature relationship with Evan, a high school student whose parents own the apartment building where Stargirl and her mother live. Evan, an aspiring writer who’s making a film with his brother, overhears Stargirl singing one day and immediately wants to get to know her for both personal and professional reasons. Evan is played by Elijah Richardson.

Horowitz says, “We cast a pretty wide net with Evan. And from the moment we saw Elijah’s audition, it was clear it was him.”

“We were all so happy when Julia decided to cast Elijah Richardson,” says Goldsmith-Vein. “He just felt so right for this role.”

When he first read the script, Richardson says, “I immediately checked out my character, and I felt I didn’t really have to do too much to embody the character, because I felt like the character was meant for me.”

VanderWaal recalls meeting Richardson for the first time at a pre-recording session. She says, “I was so nervous, and I could tell he was also nervous. But it was fine. I watched him sing, and he literally has the voice of a baby angel—the sweetest singing voice you’ve ever heard in your life.

“He’s very, very talented,” she adds. “I feel like he was absolutely perfect for Evan because he just holds that wonder in his eyes. He’s such a pure soul. It was so nice working with him.”

Richardson says, “Grace is extremely fun to work with. She’s a joyful person to be around. And honestly, it doesn’t matter if we’re working late nights or early mornings. She’s always going to make the day better.”

“They have this amazing natural chemistry,” says Hart.

Tyrel Jackson Williams plays Evan’s older brother Terrell, an aspiring film director. The two of them are collaborating on a sizzle reel for a film script written by Evan for Terrell to direct.

Describing his character, Jackson Williams says, “Terrell is incredibly ambitious, and he’s a massive dreamer. He’s somebody who believes in himself so much that when he decides to do something, he just does it.”

“TJ’s a filmmaker and a writer,” says Hart. “And it was really attractive to me in casting Terrell that this is his real passion. TJ’s an incredibly gifted actor and comedian, and the camera just loves him. Some of my favorite shots in the movie are just of his face.”

“Working with Julia is a dream,” says Jackson Williams. “It’s amazing. She has an uncanny ability to create a positive and loving on-set experience where everybody wants to make something great. She’s also a great director.”

VanderWaal says, “I love TJ so much. He’s a blessing of light, he’s extremely wise, very well spoken and intelligent, and probably the funniest person you’ll ever meet in your entire life.”

Jackson Williams feels the same way about VanderWaal. He says, “Working with Grace has been really, really fun. Grace is absolutely hilarious. She’s incredibly talented. She’s amazing, a musical genius. And she is one of the funniest people I have ever had the pleasure of working with and being around.”

Horowitz adds, “So much of this movie is about Stargirl and Evan’s chemistry, and so much of this movie is about the chemistry of the three of them as well. I remember putting the three of them on Zoom together. It was just electric, the way that they all were relating to one another. It was awesome to see.”

Stargirl’s and Evan’s curmudgeonly downstairs neighbor, Mr. Mitchell, used to be a successful film producer. He is played by Judd Hirsch, who won two Emmy® Awards for his role on the long-running classic sitcom “Taxi” and starred in such other series as “The Goldbergs,” “Dear John,” “Numb3rs,” “Damages,” “Forever” and “Superior Donuts,” and was nominated for an Oscar® for “Ordinary People.”

Stollman recalls, “We were all super excited about casting Judd Hirsch to play the role of Mr. Mitchell.”

“Judd Hirsch is legend,” says Horowitz. “It’s awesome that we got to make a movie with him. He’s been in some of Julia’s and my favorite movies. It was really amazing to watch him work. I mean, he’s the consummate professional and an incredible performer. And he’s just so funny, too.”

Hirsch says, “Julia is really a darling person. She knows very much why she chose me, and kind of lets me know it all the time. And I find myself thinking through her. It’s not hard to think through her head, as I know what she wants. And what she wants is the sweetness of truth.”

Oscar® nominee Uma Thurman (“Pulp Fiction,” “Kill Bill, Vols. 1 and 2”) portrays Roxanne Martell, a once-promising singer who seemingly disappeared from the music scene, only to turn up every night in the audience at a nightclub in Stargirl’s neighborhood.

Says Stollman, “Julia had a very specific vision for Roxanne and what she wanted this character to be physically and musically. And the fact that Uma was available when we needed her, the stars aligned.”

Hart says, “Uma Thurman is someone whom I had been a fan of my whole life, so working with her was a dream. She’s so dedicated and yet so fun to direct. Having her play that character was just so special.”

Thurman recalls, “My manager, Dannielle Thomas, watched ‘I’m Your Woman’ and said, ‘“I’m Your Woman” is going to blow your mind. And you’re going to fall in love with Julia Hart.’ And so, I then watched ‘I’m Your Woman’ and it blew my mind. And I watched ‘Stargirl,’ and I loved it. Then I did a Zoom with Julia, and what’s not to love about her? She’s really an extraordinary talent and so deserving of her success and a really beautiful artist and writer. Wonderful film. And I think that the energy that they’ve put into this second iteration is going to be a totally new energy. Also, Grace being such an incredible young woman versus kind of like young, young woman, almost really, a kid. Now she’s sort of blossoming, and it’ll be a twist. There’s romance and there’s music, and there’s dancing, and there’s an incredibly eclectic, wonderful cast. I think it’s quite magical.”

Thurman says about VanderWaal, “She’s fantastic. She’s like a Parisian movie star. And she’s very unique. She’s not a cookie-cutter type of person. She’s different and special.”

About her character, Thurman says, “I think Roxanne is getting a little healing from this young girl. She’s getting reminded about being free. She’s getting reminded about having fun. She’s seeing something beautiful and with hope. Roxanne comes to realize that her real self is still that kid too.”

Says VanderWaal, “I love Uma. The first time I met her, she just gave me mother energy. She was just very warm. Very welcoming. Very, very humble. Very funny. It was always fun when she was on set. And it was really an honor to work with her. They say never meet your heroes, but she truly did not disappoint at all. She was a very pure energy. She was awesome.”

Stargirl's best friend, her pet rat, Cinnamon, was played by several rats, the main ones being Chloe, Penelope and Phoebe.

ORIGINAL SONGS

For the film, VanderWaal composed an original song with music producer Mike Elizondo. Unlike in the first "Stargirl," where the song she wrote was played over the end credits, this time her song is featured in the course of the film.

Hart recalls, "I gave her an idea and a title that was sort of woven throughout the script, and then she and Mike, who is an incredible music producer, went away for three days and wrote 'Figure It Out.' And we developed it and worked on it, but the core of the song and the lyrics and everything that they did in that original writing session is what's in the movie."

"The process was really long because you have to show it to all the producers. And then they had a bunch of notes. And then we make it again," explains VanderWaal. "It was a big challenge for me, because it's very hard for me to give up control like that, especially when it comes to my music, and so it was definitely testing my control issues. But now looking back I love every single change that they made, every single suggestion that they had. We kept rerecording it. And then the final was finally there. And then I just forgot about it until it was time to record it on set."

She says, "I'm so happy that they let me do it. Because, honestly, not to toot my own horn, I couldn't imagine a different song. I think that it's perfect for the movie."

Music producer Michael Penn, a longtime friend of Hart's who wasn't involved with the first film, wrote two original songs for "Hollywood Stargirl," which he produced along with other music for the film.

Explains Penn, "The challenge for me was to write in the voices of the characters that are ostensibly writing these songs. And the first one is a song that in the film was supposed to have been written by Roxanne Martell twenty years earlier. And the other is a song written by Stargirl. So, after discussing with Jordan and Julia what they wanted to communicate with the songs and what purposes they served in those moments in the film, I decided to write two songs that were sort of about the same thing but coming from the perspective of these two characters twenty years apart."

He wrote both songs about the moment when a person dreams of a life in some kind of creative field and wants to explore their relationship with their physical place and their identity. The song for Roxanne is called "Miracle Mile," a Los Angeles neighborhood that in the '90s was an artistic hub that Penn himself was part of.

Penn says, “Julia was somebody who used to go to this club where I played a lot in L.A. and was involved in that whole scene in L.A. in the ’90s. She’s got her taste and her aesthetic, and her music sensibilities are great.”

He says that the song for Stargirl, “Heaven Knows,” was more challenging because the lyrics needed to sound like something a character her age would actually write.

He says, “I certainly allowed it to be more sophisticated lyrically than if I had been writing a song for the first film, and I wrote it very specifically for Grace’s voice. I wanted it to reflect her character. So, I wanted to have her superhero spirit in there somehow, and it be a song about this moment in her life, where she realizes that something has to change, and she’s now in Los Angeles in this new world. And it starts out from a perspective before she meets this group of people but understanding that she needs this community in her life.

“It’s been a joy to work with her,” adds Penn. “She’s great. She sang it so perfectly right from the get-go.”

Music producer Nick Baxter, who worked on the first film before returning for “Hollywood Stargirl,” adds, “Grace has done a lot of her own work over the last couple of years, songwriting and exploring some different styles, and is finding her own voice as an artist. So, we wanted to make sure we honored that growth in her but also honor the original character of Stargirl, which is its own thing. I think we got to a really cool place that honors both.”

Baxter says, “Grace is incredibly talented. She surprises us every day. She has such control over her voice. And what she brings to the scene is so natural.”

VanderWaal recalls filming the dance sequence for Terrell and Evan’s “sizzle reel” for their film project. “I’m not a dancer, but it was really fun. It was very nerve-wracking, but it was one of my favorite scenes.”

She adds, “I also loved filming the little jam sesh between Stargirl, Roxanne and Evan. That was so fun. Once again, I wish that that wasn’t a silent scene because I want people to know we were actually doing it.”

STARGIRL’S LOOK

When Hart and Horowitz approached “Stargirl” costume designer Natalie O’Brien about working on the sequel, and finally met to discuss “Hollywood Stargirl,” they sent her some up-to-date photos of VanderWaal so O’Brien could see what she looked like now that a few years had passed.

Recalls O’Brien, “She’s evolved; she’s just a swan. She’s changed from the 14-year-old girl that was strumming a ukulele in the first film, and now she’s a woman.”

Hart told her that she envisioned mid-20th-century American actress Jean Seberg as an inspiration for what Stargirl might look like in the sequel. Seberg's signature look was her boyish pixie haircut, teamed with slouchy Breton tops, cigarette pants and ballet pumps, and she also loved oversized shirts, chunky knit sweaters and Peter Pan collars. In "Hollywood Stargirl," Stargirl's hair is cut short like Seberg's, and as an homage to the Herald Tribune logo T-shirt Seberg wore in the 1960 French New Wave classic "Breathless," Stargirl wears a Los Angeles Times logo T-shirt.

"Stargirl's wardrobe palette changed from the first film to this one," explains O'Brien. "The first film was set in Arizona, so we did a lot of sunset colors. For California, another one of Julia's inspirations was the film 'Cooley High.' And it's like, punch you in the face with color. Everyone has it."

She recalls that Hart told her she wanted not only Stargirl to look very colorful but also everyone else around her, so that it's clear Stargirl has found her people. Her wardrobe in the film includes a watermelon-colored outfit and a button vest found in one of the vintage shops that populate L.A.'s Little Ethiopia neighborhood, where they had bought several pieces for the first film. Stargirl wears the vest with bell bottoms and an authentic 1970s shirt. O'Brien calls the outfit "very retro, but also kind of now."

Although Stargirl wore a lot of hats and jewelry in the first film, O'Brien toned it down this time. She explains, "I didn't want to go too heavy, because I did a lot on the first one. She's got such a beautiful face and this crazy, beautiful swan giraffe neck I would kill for, and the new hair. I didn't want to hide her under too much of it."

O'Brien mentions one of her favorite outfits that combines a corset on an off-the-shoulder white top and jeans. She says, "I wanted to do a corset because it's a more grown-up piece of clothing for a 17-year-old girl to wear. It was a mix of vintage and new, and a mix of something borrowed not blue. I really loved Grace's reaction to it."

She also points out a hand-crocheted, off-the-shoulder feather top VanderWaal adored, a high-waisted vintage skirt, an Americana floral strappy dress that Stargirl wears with a satin bomber jacket, a two-piece sherbet oufit with a plaid skirt and a rouge orange floral top.

O'Brien says, "In the scene in the recording studio, Stargirl wears these wing-tipped boots, because in California we wear a lot of boots. And we used lots and lots of socks. The amount of socks that she had were almost more than her shirts. That's the biggest accessory."

"I'm in awe of Grace," admits O'Brien. She says, "Anything she touches, anything that she does, is kind of golden. She's very special, a very rare beauty, but she also connects, and she's herself, and I think that's really cool."

FILMING LOCATIONS

The filmmakers wanted “Hollywood Stargirl” to be a love letter to Los Angeles and were eager to incorporate as many iconic L.A.-area locations as possible. The first day of production they filmed at Will Rogers State Beach, Tower 5, for a scene when Stargirl and Cinnamon take the bus to the beach. Another beach location was Sycamore Cove/Point Mugu Rock, where Ana and Stargirl go when they first get to Los Angeles to watch the sunset and have dinner. They also filmed at Westward Beach for the scene in which Terrell directs Evan and Stargirl dancing in their film.

The classic bungalow-style apartment building where Stargirl and Ana live is located on Genesee Avenue in Hollywood. Stargirl and Mr. Mitchell have breakfast at a decades-old coffee shop on Franklin Avenue in Hollywood, which for the past 20 years was known as the 101 Coffee Shop. Shuttered during the pandemic, it recently reopened as Clark Street.

When Grace and Evan go on a date, they eat ice cream and enjoy the view in the Cedar Grove section of Griffith Park, overlooking Los Angeles. And Delicious Pizza on Adams Boulevard in West Adams is the pizza parlor where Stargirl and Evan visit Terrell at work.

Sunset Sound is where Roxanne takes Stargirl and Evan to record their songs in the film, and where VanderWaal and Richardson actually recorded their songs for the film. This iconic recording studio, founded by Disney’s legendary director of recording Tutti Camarata in 1962, is where many of the studio’s classic musical soundtracks were recorded and was later used by such artists as the Doors, Paul McCartney, Van Halen, Bee Gees, Whitney Houston, the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Led Zeppelin, Kenny Loggins, Elton John, Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin and Fleetwood Mac, among many others.

ABOUT THE CAST

GRACE VANDERWAAL (Stargirl Caraway) is both an actress and a critically acclaimed musician who has been named to Billboard magazine’s “21 Under 21” list multiple times and was the youngest person to be included in Forbes’ “30 Under 30” music list.

The 18-year-old singer-songwriter is set to release new music this summer via Columbia Records, for the first time in over a year. Followed by a yet-to-be-titled EP later this year, the fresh body of work will feature several songs made in collaboration with Mike Elizondo and Jesse Shatkin.

In 2016 Grace won “America’s Got Talent” and has since released a best-selling full-length album, “Just the Beginning,” and two hit EPs, “Perfectly Imperfect” and “Letters Vol. 1.” She has toured around the United States, headlining, and around the world, opening for Florence + The Machine and Imagine Dragons.

JUDY GREER's **(Ana Caraway)** career in both film and television has been extremely prolific, with her appearing in nearly 200 roles to date, including the Blumhouse reboot of "Halloween," directed by David Gordon Green, starring alongside Jamie Lee Curtis. The sequel, "Halloween Kills," was released at the end of last year with Greer once again starring alongside Curtis. Greer most recently filmed HBO's limited series "The White House Plumbers" opposite Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux for director David Mandel, as well as the independent feature "Mabel" and the Blumhouse/NBC limited series "The Thing About Pam," which premiered on March 8. Greer will be starring in the lead role in "Reboot" from Steve Levitan for Hulu/20th Television with Keegan-Michael Key, Johnny Knoxville and Paul Reiser.

Greer can be seen in the independent feature film "Driven," opposite Jason Sudeikis and Lee Pace, Richard Linklater's "Where'd You Go, Bernadette," opposite Cate Blanchett, and "Buffaloed," opposite Zoey Deutch and Jermaine Fowler. Greer's additional feature credits include Universal's "Jurassic World"; MGM's reboot of the Brian De Palma classic "Carrie"; Fox Searchlight's Academy Award®–winning "The Descendants," directed by Alexander Payne and starring George Clooney; Jamie Babbit's "Addicted to Fresno"; Barry Blaustein's "Peep World"; and Jason Reitman's "Men, Women & Children."

Recently, Greer starred opposite Jim Carrey and Catherine Keener on the Showtime series "Kidding." For the past 10 years, she has voiced the role of Cheryl on the FXX Emmy®-winning animated comedy "Archer," and now also voices the lead role of Luna on the PBS Kids show "Let's Go Luna!" Previously, Greer starred in the FX comedy series "Married," opposite Nat Faxon, and has recurred on Netflix's "Arrested Development," Hulu's "Casual," CBS's "Two and a Half Men" and Showtime's "Masters of Sex."

Other TV credits include Fox's "American Dad," ABC's "Modern Family," IFC's "Portlandia," CBS's "The Big Bang Theory" and "How I Met Your Mother," FX's "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," Netflix's "BoJack Horseman" and "Lady Dynamite," Showtime's "Californication" and USA's "Royal Pains." In 2012 Greer made her Broadway debut opposite Katie Holmes in "Dead Accounts," and in 2014 released her first book, "I Don't Know What You Know Me From: Confessions of a Co-Star."

In 2018 Greer made her feature film directorial debut with "A Happening of Monumental Proportions." Produced by Artists First and Depth of Field, "AHOMP" stars Common, Bradley Whitford, Allison Janney, Jennifer Garner, Anders Holm, Katie Holmes, Rob Riggle and Storm Reid. The film premiered at the Bentonville Film Festival in May 2017 where it won the Audience Spotlight award. Previously Greer directed an AOL original short that documents the practice of Transcendental Meditation and how it has changed the lives of teachers and students who learned the practice from the David Lynch Foundation.

ELIJAH RICHARDSON (Evan) was born on September 24, 2002, and began acting when he was 5 years old. He landed a principal role in an AT&T national commercial. After the commercial aired, he became instantly recognized and landed national commercial spots with Old Navy and Verizon. Richardson's face—specifically his freckles, infectious smile and personality—made him synonymous with the aforementioned brand as he appeared on numerous store advertisements and billboards. His first major acting role was in the short film "Stanhope" (2015), followed by the short film "King Jack "(2015) and an episode of the award-winning TV show "Mr. Robot" (2015). In 2017 he appeared in the TV show "Law and Order: SVU," playing a pinnacle role as a potential suspect in the investigation of a violent crime, and three episodes of the smash-hit series "New Amsterdam" (2019), where he played a difficult role as an adolescent with behavior issues seeking counseling. In 2021 he appeared in three episodes of the Disney+ miniseries Marvel's "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," where he played the infamous Eli Bradley.

Richardson is extremely passionate about acting and, in addition to Denzel Washington and Martin Lawrence being two of his acting role models, he sees his parents as the driving forces of inspiration behind his success. He is very good at multitasking via maintaining his GPA while concurrently seeking acting opportunities and auditions. In his spare time, he continues to seek ways to learn more about the acting industry by networking and meeting new people. In addition, he is an avid fan of basketball and football.

TYREL JACKSON WILLIAMS (Terrell) just finished filming the reboot of the cult hit "Party Down" for Starz as a series regular alongside the original cast including Adam Scott, Jane Lynch, Megan Mullally and Martin Starr.

Previously he was featured in a supporting role opposite Octavia Spencer and Melissa McCarthy in the Netflix feature "Thunder Force." He can also be seen opposite J.K. Simmons in "The Bachelors." His additional credits include featured roles in "Muppets Most Wanted," "Failure to Launch," "The Naked Brothers Band" and "2 for the Money."

On the television side, Jackson Williams was a series regular on IFC's hit comedy "Brockmire" opposite Hank Azaria and Amanda Peet. He played Charles, an internet whiz kid hired as an intern/assistant to Hank Azaria's Jim Brockmire. His additional TV credits include a recurring guest role on the Melissa McCarthy/Ben Falcone project "Nobodies." Prior to that, he starred in the Disney XD live-action comedy series "Lab Rats" and made appearances in a number of television series, including Disney XD's "Pair of Kings," Disney Channel's "Good Luck Charlie," "Modern Family," "Community," "Sesame Street" (for several years) and "Elmo's Holiday Kwanzaa."

Jackson Williams recently co-wrote and sold the single-camera comedy pilot "Hardly Working" to Paramount+ with "Funny or Die."

He has appeared in numerous national commercials for Target, Verizon, McDonald's, Chex Mix, Kraft and General Mills, among others.

In addition to acting, he lent his singing talent to the animated television series “The Backyardigans,” and he currently performs as part of the pop-music project Grouptherapy.

A Bronx-native, **JUDD HIRSCH (Mr. Mitchell)** attended CCNY, where he majored in engineering and physics. A blossoming fascination with the theater convinced Hirsch that his future lay in acting. After an auspicious TV-movie bow in the well-received “The Law” (1974), Hirsch landed his first weekly-series assignment, playing the title character in the cop drama “Delvecchio” (1976-77). From 1978 to 1982, he was seen as Alex Reiger in the popular ensemble comedy “Taxi,” earning two Emmys® in the process. While occupied with “Taxi,” Hirsch received a nomination for the Academy Award® for best supporting actor for his role in Robert Redford’s Oscar®-winning drama “Ordinary People” (1980). In the following decade, he was honored with two Tony Awards® for the Broadway efforts “I’m Not Rappoport” and “Conversations with My Father.” His post-“Taxi” TV series roles include Press Wyman in “Detective in the House” (1985) and his Golden Globe®–winning turn as John Lacey in “Dear John” (1988-92). Hirsch could also be seen playing Jeff Goldblum’s father in the movie blockbuster “Independence Day” (1996). In 2001 Hirsch appeared with Paul Bettany and Christopher Plummer in the multi-award-winning biopic “A Beautiful Mind,” which starred Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly. The actor once again found success on the television screen in CBS’s drama “Numb3rs,” in which he took on the role of Alan Eppes. After appearing on all four seasons of “Numb3rs,” Hirsch took a small role in director Brett Ratner’s crime comedy “Tower Heist.” He was a series regular in the CBS series “Superior Donuts” and starred in the feature “Uncut Gems” opposite Adam Sandler. Hirsch most recently appeared in the long-running ABC series “The Goldbergs” and the Amazon series “Hunters” opposite Al Pacino.

His upcoming credits are the Apple anthology series “Extrapolations” as well as the Universal Pictures feature “The Fabelmans,” directed by Steven Spielberg.

Award-winning actress **UMA THURMAN (Roxanne Martell)** has proven herself to be one of the industry’s most versatile performers, lending her talents to an array of revered films and television.

Thurman can most recently be seen on the Showtime series “Super Pumped: The Battle for Uber,” in which she portrays the infamous Arianna Huffington. Additionally, Thurman can be seen on the Apple TV+ series “Suspicion,” a high-paced thriller about the kidnapping of the son of a prominent American businesswoman.

Thurman’s entrance into mainstream film began following her role as the goddess Venus in Terry Gilliam’s “The Adventures of Baron Munchausen.” She went on to receive critical acclaim for her portrayal of Cecile in Stephen Frears’ “Dangerous Liaisons” opposite John Malkovich. Additional film credits include “Beautiful Girls,” “Batman & Robin,” “Les Misérables,” “Prime” with Meryl Streep, and “The Producers.”

Thurman received an Academy Award® nomination for best supporting actress for her portrayal of Mia Wallace in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" and, as Tarantino's muse, Thurman garnered Golden Globe® Award nominations for her role as The Bride in the "Kill Bill" film franchise.

Thurman earned a Golden Globe® Award for "Hysterical Blindness," which she produced and starred in, and received her first Emmy® nomination for outstanding guest actress in a drama series for her arc on NBC's series "Smash." In 2017 Thurman completed her Broadway debut as the star of "The Parisian Woman."

Born in Boston and raised in Amherst, Thurman currently lives in New York City with her three children.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JULIA HART (Director/Writer) is the co-founder (with her husband, producer and writer Jordan Horowitz) of the film and television production company Original Headquarters. Hart directed and co-wrote "I'm Your Woman," starring Rachel Brosnahan. The film opened AFI Fest 2020 and was released by Amazon Studios. Hart's other credits include "Stargirl," based on the best-selling book by Jerry Spinelli, for Disney+; "Fast Color," starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Lorraine Toussaint and David Strathairn, which is currently being developed for television with Amazon Studios and Viola Davis' JuVee Productions; and "Miss Stevens," starring Lily Rabe, Timothée Chalamet, Lili Reinhart and Rob Huebel. Hart is a graduate of Columbia University and the mother of two beautiful boys.

JORDAN HOROWITZ (Writer/Producer) is an Academy Award®–nominated producer and the co-founder (with his wife, writer and director Julia Hart) of the film and television production company Original Headquarters. Horowitz was a producer on "La La Land," written and directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling. At the 2017 Academy Awards, "La La Land" was nominated for 14 Oscars® and won six, including best director for Damien Chazelle and best actress for Emma Stone. "La La Land" also received best picture at the Golden Globes®, BAFTAs, PGA Awards and Critics Choice Awards.

Additionally, Horowitz was a producer on Lisa Cholodenko's "The Kids Are All Right," starring Julianne Moore, Annette Bening, Mark Ruffalo, Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson. The film received four Academy Award® nominations and won the Golden Globe® for best picture. Horowitz co-wrote and produced "I'm Your Woman" for Amazon Studios, directed and co-written by Julia Hart and starring Rachel Brosnahan; "Stargirl" for Disney+, directed by Julia Hart and starring Grace VanderWaal; "Fast Color," directed by Julia Hart and starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Lorraine Toussaint and David Strathairn, which is currently being developed for television with Viola Davis' JuVee Productions and Amazon Studios; the television series "Counterpart," created by Justin Marks and starring J.K. Simmons; "Miss Stevens," directed by Julia Hart, starring Lily

Rabe, Timothée Chalamet, Lili Reinhart and Rob Huebel; "The Cleanse," directed by Bobby Miller and starring Johnny Galecki, Anna Friel, Anjelica Huston and Oliver Platt; "The Keeping Room," written by Julia Hart and directed by Daniel Barber and starring Brit Marling, Hailee Steinfeld and Sam Worthington; Matthew Weiner's "Are You Here," starring Owen Wilson, Zach Galifianakis and Amy Poehler; and the 2012 Sundance title "Save the Date," directed by Michael Mohan. Horowitz is a graduate of Northwestern University.

ELLEN GOLDSMITH-VEIN (Producer) is the founder and CEO of The Gotham Group, the only major management/production company in Hollywood owned solely by a woman. Based in Los Angeles, Goldsmith-Vein and The Gotham Group represent some of the most creative minds in the entertainment industry, including top directors, writers, producers, authors, illustrators and publishers.

Goldsmith-Vein is currently producing the animated feature film "Wendell & Wild" at Netflix in collaboration with Jordan Peele and acclaimed director Henry Selick and starring the voice talent of Peele, Keegan-Michael Key and Lyric Ross. Goldsmith-Vein/The Gotham Group are also producing "My Best Friend's Exorcism," based on the Grady Hendrix novel of the same name, directed by Damon Thomas and starring Elsie Fisher, Amiah Miller, Cathy Ang and Rachel Ogechi Kanu for Amazon.

In television, Goldsmith-Vein and Gotham have a first-look deal at Disney Television Studios. The Gotham Group is currently in production on the animated series "WondLa" for Apple, based on Tony DiTerlizzi's best-selling book trilogy, and is in pre-production on "Percy Jackson" for Disney+, based on the best-selling, blockbuster series by Rick Riordan, and "The Spiderwick Chronicles," based on the book series of the same name by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. Gotham is in production on "Washington Black" for Hulu, based on Esi Edugyan's critically acclaimed novel, alongside Selwyn Hinds and Sterling K. Brown.

Goldsmith-Vein and The Gotham Group produced the billion-dollar "The Maze Runner" franchise as well as the Netflix 2018 film "Kodachrome" with Jason Sudeikis, Elizabeth Olsen and Ed Harris. Goldsmith-Vein was nominated for a Primetime Emmy® and won an Annie Award for "Creature Comforts," the U.S. version of the acclaimed U.K. series from Aardman Animations, and was chosen by Variety as a "Producer to Watch" in 2014.

Gotham has numerous publishing relationships with stalwarts such as Little, Brown and Company and Simon & Schuster. These close ties with publishers are designed to help "reverse engineer" projects from leading creatives as the basis for film and television projects. Many publishers and high-powered New York literary agents look to The Gotham Group to help find homes for their material, earning it the reputation as the "go-to" firm for the best material in Hollywood.

Goldsmith-Vein started her professional life in banking at Merrill Lynch. She then joined the venerable William Morris Agency in the television packaging department and segued to Nelvana

Entertainment, where she worked developing animated film and television projects including "Family Dog" with Brad Bird and Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice," among others.

She is a prolific political fundraiser and champion of many charities. Goldsmith-Vein serves on the Board of NAB/NFC for the Democratic National Committee, is a member of the National Finance Committee for Cory Booker, and served on the National Finance Committees for Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. She is a founding member of Barbara Boxer's PAC for Change (March On) and sits on the advisory board of Common Sense Media. She is a member of the Blue Ribbon of the Los Angeles Music Center along with serving on the board of directors for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, serves as a mentor for the Junior Hollywood Radio & Television Society, and is a member of the advisory board for 826LA and the Young Storytellers Foundation. She also serves on the board of directors of P.S. Arts. She is a past board member of Girls, Inc.–a highly regarded national nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold–and was honored by the organization for her work and contributions to the arts, girls and women. She is also a member of Women in Animation and ASIFA-Hollywood.

LEE STOLLMAN (Producer) is a producer/manager at The Gotham Group, a Los Angeles-based management and production company. As producer, Stollman oversees a diverse slate of films that are in various stages of development and production.

Stollman produced "All Together Now," which is a Netflix Original Film based on the YA novel by Matthew Quick ("Silver Linings Playbook"). The movie was directed by Brett Haley and stars Auli'I Cravalho, Rhenzy Feliz, Justina Machado, Judy Reyes, Fred Armisen and Carol Burnett. Stollman served as a producer on all three installments of the "Maze Runner" film series.Worldwide box-office gross for all three films totaled roughly $1 billion.

Prior to that, Stollman produced "Life of Crime," an adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel "The Switch," which stars Jennifer Aniston, John Hawkes, Yasiin Bey, Tim Robbins, Will Forte, Isla Fisher and Mark Boone Jr. "Life of Crime" was the closing-night film at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival.Stollman made his feature film debut as a producer in 2011 with the action thriller "Abduction," which was directed by John Singleton and starred Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins, Sigourney Weaver, Maria Bello, Alfred Molina and Jason Isaacs.

Following an enviable 19-year career as a talent agent, Stollman moved to producing in 2008. Prior to joining Gotham, Stollman enjoyed a six-year tenure representing writers, actors and directors as an agent in Endeavor's motion picture department. Stollman's impressive list of clients included actors Alan Arkin, Steve Buscemi, Matt Dillon, Jessica Alba, Kevin James, Steve Zahn, Ray Liotta, Michelle Yeoh, Connie Nielsen and L.L. Cool J and directors John Woo, Mathieu Kassovitz, Conrad Vernon, Greg Popp and Michele Ohayon.

Stollman began his career at the William Morris Agency in 1989, as a part of its "famed" agent-training program. As a motion picture agent, Stollman made his name in the independent film

arena, most notably discovering an unproduced writer-director set to make his first feature, entitled “Reservoir Dogs.” The movie premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and became an instant sensation. Its director, Quentin Tarantino, went on to alter the course of film history in the ’90s and continues to do so to this day. At William Morris, Stollman ultimately served as the West Coast head of Motion Picture Talent, representing such artists as: Bruce Willis, Alec Baldwin, John Travolta, Kevin Bacon, Ving Rhames, Ray Romano, Tom Arnold, Chow Yun-Fat, Willem Dafoe, Tupac Shakur, John Woo, Guillermo Del Toro, Tarantino, Lawrence Bender and musician Jerry Garcia. He departed William Morris for Endeavor, after a successful 13-year run, in 2002.

A native of Philadelphia, Stollman graduated from Syracuse University’s School of Management in 1988 with a B.S. in marketing. While attending Syracuse, Stollman was on the university’s men’s wrestling team and a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity.